GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:287
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
DENSITY OF HERBAL PLANTS
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the density of herbal plants in the forest areas of the hilly region in Central India is on the constant decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has evolved any scheme to check the illegal exploitation and smuggling of rare herbs and herbal plants from these reserved forest areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 287 TO BE REPLIED ON 05.12.2007 REGARDING "DENSITY OF HERBAL PLANTS":

(a) & (b): There is no scientific study against a time-series data giving quantified figures regarding constant decline in the density of herbal plants in the forest areas of the hilly region in Central India. However, as per the information received from some States like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, and Botanical Survey of India, there is a general perception that the density of herbal plants may be declining due to various anthropogenic factors.

(c) & (d): Under the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Government of India has set up the National Biodiversity Authority and the said Act also provided for setting up of State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees. The Act provides for checking illegal exploitation and smuggling of materials of biological origin, including rare herbs and herbal plants. Conservation and protection of wildlife, including herbal plants, is also dealt through enforcement of Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; and, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the rules under these Acts. However, due to the open access nature of biological resources, the possibility of illegal exploitation and smuggling cannot be totally ruled out.